

1 AN ACT in relation to persons with disabilities.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Mental Health and Developmental
5 Disabilities Administrative Act is amended by changing Section
6 57 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 1705/57) (from Ch. 91 1/2, par. 100-57)

8 Sec. 57. ~~In order to identify the service needs of persons~~
9 ~~with autism, the Department shall study the needs of the~~
10 ~~population.~~ The Department of Human Services shall
11 periodically convene a special task force of representatives of
12 the various State agencies with related programs and services
13 together with other interested parties and stakeholders to
14 study and assess ~~submit~~ service needs of persons with autism
15 ~~reports to the General Assembly annually which shall supplement~~
16 ~~the report submitted in accordance with Public Act 84-1291.~~ The
17 Secretary of Human Services shall submit a report of the task
18 force's findings and recommendations and the Secretary's
19 priorities to the Governor and the General Assembly by
20 September 1, 2005. The Secretary shall provide annual progress
21 reports to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1
22 of each year, beginning on January 1, 2006. The reports shall
23 include an analysis of progress made in ~~since the submission of~~
24 ~~that report in the areas outlined in that report, with emphasis~~
25 ~~on~~ the following areas:

26 a. Early intervention services for children with autism and
27 their parents;

28 b. Enhancement of family support mechanisms to enable
29 persons with autism to remain in a home-based or community
30 family home environment in the least-restrictive setting
31 possible, including progress on the implementation of plans to
32 provide assistance to individuals and families; the plan shall

1 include, but not be limited to, (i) identification of the
2 services required, (ii) the availability of services,
3 especially those within the home community of the person with
4 autism, (iii) the number of persons requiring the services,
5 (iv) the cost of the services, (v) the capacity of the person
6 with autism and his or her family to independently provide the
7 services and the extent to which the State may support the
8 individual and family effort, (vi) the extent of existing and
9 planned State support, (vii) the availability and utilization
10 of federal financial participation in the cost of services, and
11 (viii) the outcomes and impact of services being provided;

12 c. Services for adequate transition for people with autism
13 from public school programs to adult work and day programs; and

14 d. Plans, programs, and services under the Disabilities
15 Services Act of 2003 ~~Facilitation of placement of persons with~~
16 ~~autism in the least restrictive community setting.~~

17 The Department of Human Services and the Department of
18 Public Aid shall determine the availability of federal
19 financial participation in the cost of developing a family
20 support program, which would include medical assistance
21 coverage for children diagnosed with autism who would otherwise
22 qualify for medical assistance under the Illinois Public Aid
23 Code except for family income. The program would include
24 services to support persons with autism in their homes and
25 communities that are not provided through local school systems,
26 early intervention programs, or the medical assistance program
27 under the Illinois Public Aid Code. The departments shall
28 determine the feasibility of obtaining federal financial
29 participation and may apply for any applicable waiver under
30 Section 1915(c) of the federal Social Security Act.

31 For the purpose of this service needs review, autism means
32 a severely incapacitating life-long developmental disability
33 which:

- 34 a. may be manifested before a person is 30 months of age,
35 b. may be caused by physical disorders of the brain, and
36 c. is characterized by uneven intellectual development and

1 a combination of disturbances in the rates and sequences of
2 cognitive, affective, psychomotor, language and speech
3 development. This syndrome is further evidenced by abnormal
4 responses to sensory stimuli, problems in developing social
5 relationships, and ritualistic and compulsive behavior.

6 (Source: P.A. 85-971.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
8 becoming law.